

Dear Commissioners:

When the FCC allowed the monopolization of local radio, Austin lost local stations that were replaced by stations with homogenous play lists from Dallas and Houston. Local news and community events were also lost. Allowing this to happen on a national level across multiple media outlets will have a negative effect for the American public. An example of this can be seen in the coverage of the U.S. war on Iraq, with certain media corporations functioning as an additional governmental entity, abdicating their responsibility for objective reporting of the facts. The loss of differing viewpoints and information on the issues of the day will have a an extremely adverse effect on our beloved democracy. The FCC market rules should serve the public interest foremost, rather than cater to private interests. I oppose taking a vote that leads to more media consolidation. On June 2nd, I urge you to retain the current ownership rules. The burden of proof should rest upon those commissioners favoring rule change; they should have to show how the proposed changes would benefit the American public, not just the media corporations.